CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A method of distributed collaborative computing comprising:

5   partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
                functions;

       assigning at least one said sub-function to each
                of a plurality of logical processes;

       associating a respective management process with
10   each of said plurality of logical processes,
                said logical processes configured so that
                each said logical process is capable of
                communicating with every other said logical
                process thru said respective management
15   process;

       communicating between said logical processes using
                said respective management processes; and

       monitoring said respective management processes
                with a single supervisor process;

20   wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on
     a dedicated network.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure
     protocol comprises encryption.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure
25   protocol comprises compression.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure
     protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a
     proprietary message syntax.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.

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6.   A computer program for use in distributed collaborative computing, comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

10   assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that

15   each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

20   communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process;

wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on

25   a dedicated network.

7.   The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

8.   The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

9. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

10. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.

11. A computer-readable medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server computers, the computer program comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process;

wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

5   14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary
10 message syntax, compression, and encryption.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:
        partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
            functions;
15   assigning at least one said sub-function to each
            of a plurality of logical processes;
        associating a respective management process with
20   each of said plurality of logical processes,
            said logical processes configured so that
            each said logical process is capable of
            communicating with every other said logical
            process thru said respective management
25   process;
        communicating between said logical processes using
            said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes
with a single supervisor process;
wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on
a dedicated network.

5   17. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises encryption.

18. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises compression.

19. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
10 said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages
employing a proprietary message syntax.

20. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message
syntax, compression, and encryption.